

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

SAM-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 EB-07 /074 W

----- 082050

R 091230Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3215

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6995

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, GER, EUR

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH GERMAN AMBASSADOR VON LILIENFELD

1. GERMAN AMBASSADOR VON LILIENFELD, WHO RETURNED TO MADRID OCTOBER 8, CAME TO SEE ME TODAY. HE SAID THAT HE SHOULD HAVE RETURNED TO MADRID ON OCTOBER 7, BUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN A ROW IN THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING WHEN GENSCHER HAD STATED THAT THE FRG AMBASSADOR WOULD RETURN ON OCTOBER 7. CALLAGHAN, IN PARTICULAR, WAS IRRITATED THAT THE GERMANS WERE TAKING THIS ACTION ALONE AND A COMPROMISE WAS FINALLY WORKED OUT WHEREBY THE FRG AMBASSADOR AND THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR WOULD RETURN ON THE SAME DAY.

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2. VON LILENFELD INDICATED THAT BOTH SCHMIDT AND

GENSCHER HAD BEEN QUITE COURAGEOUS IN TERMS OF DOMESTIC POLITICS IN EFFORTS THEY WERE MAKING TO SAVE WHATEVER INFLUENCE THE FRG MAY HAVE WITH SPAIN. THE FRG GOVERNMENT BELIEVED LITTLE OR NO PURPOSE WAS SERVED BY KEEPING ITS AMBASSADOR IN BONN WHEN HE COULD BE MUCH MORE USEFUL IN MADRID.

3. VON LILENFELD WENT ON TO SAY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN SPAIN AND THE UNENDING PROCESS OF ACTION AND REACTION. THIS RAISED THE SPECTRE OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THERE WERE MORE TRIALS AND EXECUTIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. VON LILENFELD TOLD ME THAT HE HAD A LETTER FROM SCHMIDT TO ARIAS WHICH HE WOULD DELIVER TO ARIAS THIS AFTERNOON. HE ALSO HAD A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT SCHEEL TO FRANCO. HE WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER HE WOULD TRANSMIT THE LETTER TO FRANCO THROUGH ARIAS OR THROUGH A SENIOR MEMBER OF FRANCO'S HOUSEHOLD OR DIRECTLY TO FRANCO. I EXPRESSED THE FIEW THAT HE OUGHT TO SEE FRANCO HIMSELF. VON LILENFELD SAID THAT THE LETTERS STATED FRG NON-INTERFERENCE WITH SPANISH INTENAL AFFAIRS, CONDEMNATION OF TERRORISM AND VIOLENCE, BUT THE HOPE THAT SPAIN WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EFFECT ON OPINION IN EUROPE WITH RESPECT TO ADDITIONAL SUMMARY MILITARY TRIALS AND EXECUTIONS.

4. VON LILIENTELD ASKED WHETHER I MIGHT ALSO SAY A WORD TO THE GOS CONCERNING THE EFFECT OF ADDITIONAL MILITARY TRIALS AND EXECUTIONS ON CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF US-SPANISH AGREEMENT. I TOLD VON LILIENTELD THAT CORTINA WAS WELL AWARE OF THE NEGATIVE REACTION IN THE US TO THE LACK OF DUE PROCESS AND THAT I HAD ALSO SPOKEN ALONG THIS LINE PERSONALLY TO CORTINA ON OCTOBER 7. I SAID THAT I WOULD, AS THE OCCASION PRESENTED ITSELF, CONTINUE TO MAKE THIS POINT AND IT WAS MY IMPRESSION THAT CORTINA AND POSSIBLY OTHER MINISTERS WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SPANISH "PUBLIC RELATIONS" POSITION AS A RESULT OF THE SUMMARY COURT-MARTIAL.

STABLER

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